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1. An isolated antibody, or binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds to a 499E9 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. The antibody, or binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody is polyclonal.

3. The antibody, or binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.

~~4. The antibody, or binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody is an anti-idiotypic antibody.~~

~~5. The antibody, or binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a 499E9 agonist.~~

530  
C4  
6. The antibody, or binding fragment of claim 1, wherein the antibody is a 499E9 antagonist.

7. The antibody, or binding fragment of claim 6, wherein the antibody binding fragment is a F(ab')<sub>2</sub>, Fab, or F<sub>v</sub> fragment.

8.<sup>6</sup> The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody binds to a 499E9 polypeptide with a K<sub>d</sub> of at least about 30 μM.

9.<sup>7</sup> The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody binds to a 499E9 polypeptide with a K<sub>d</sub> of at least about 10 μM.

10. An isolated antibody, or binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a substantially pure or recombinant 499E9 polypeptide exhibiting 100% sequence identity over a length of at least 12 contiguous amino acids to SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) a natural sequence 499E9 of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

c) a fusion protein comprising 499E9 sequence.

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